

Lackawanna Pro Bono's Robert W. Munley Award. I commend Dr. Robert Wright for all the effort he has put forth to make northeastern Pennsylvania a better place to live.

TRIBUTE TO THE POULOS FAMILY

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dan, Kathy, and Pete Poulos, of the Pizza King Restaurant in Council Bluffs, Iowa. For 50 years, Pizza King has been a landmark in the business community. It was founded in 1965, and has been a family-owned operation since its inception.

Pizza King has hosted events of all kinds, from wedding rehearsal dinners, to children's parties, to anniversary celebrations. Pizza King has been the restaurant of choice for a quiet dinner for two, a business meeting, or a gathering of over 100. The Poulos Family works together to provide outstanding customer service each and every day. The Pizza King Restaurant is a Council Bluffs institution and has provided delicious food, paired with a warm and inviting atmosphere, for generations of diners.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Dan, Kathy, Pete and the entire Poulos family for 50 years of dedicated service to Council Bluffs and southwest Iowa. I urge my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Pizza King and its owners for this outstanding achievement. I wish the Poulos family and staff nothing but the best moving forward.

TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT JIM TORRES, U.S. AIR FORCE, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Master Sergeant Jim Torres, U.S. Air Force, Retired for his 23 years of dedication, loyalty, and honorable service to our great nation and his continued outstanding community involvement. His has been a life lived in devoted service to others.

MSgt Torres served 3 tours in Vietnam, all as a volunteer. For his selfless service to our country, he was awarded the Bronze Star, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry for heroic combat action among other awards.

Upon retirement, MSgt Torres continues to serve his fellow veterans in Round Rock, Texas in countless ways. He serves in an involved role in El Amistad, an organization dedicated to helping high school seniors go to college or trade school. MSgt Torres has long been a volunteer at the VA hospital in Kerrville where he takes on an active role reaching out to patients. Known locally as a "one man veteran's help line" he engages in conversations with veterans to hear their story and help with any problem they might be having. MSgt

Torres' service doesn't simply stop at conversations with his fellow veterans; he also volunteers at the local Round Rock Veteran's thrift store where proceeds go to help Central Texas veterans. He is beloved by the community for these selfless actions.

MSgt Torres is a quiet hero who takes on community tasks for his fellow man to seek and ensure that local veterans receive the recognition they deserve. I commend him for his selfless service to the United States Air Force and especially to his community. He has been a shining example and direct reflection of the very best values of our nation by his acts of patriotism, citizenship, and commitment to service. I wish him and his family all the best in the future.

SITE COMMISSIONS

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit a letter that I and my colleagues sent to the FCC asking for an end to site commissions.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the FCC will finally take action to reform prison telephone rates also known as Inmate Calling Services. This action is long overdue. The inmate calling service industry is a monopoly with less than three dominant players. Basically, each correctional facility contracts with one of the big players to be an exclusive service provider. While there is a bidding process, the companies typically agree to pay a percentage of their profits back to the department in exchange for the contract. (An average of 48 percent according to Prison Legal News). Simply, the company that can offer the largest "kickbacks" wins the contract. This is purely "reverse competition". Operating without regulation or proper oversight this shadowy industry has taken advantage of millions of families and their loved ones.

I must mention two citizens critical in my education on this process. First is Charlie Sullivan of CURE a tireless prison reform advocate who approached me over 10 years ago about this injustice. The second is Ms. Martha Wright, a grandmother, who in 2003 filed a class action lawsuit against these unscrupulous businesses alleging they charged "exorbitant and unconscionable long-distance rates."

In 2005, I first introduced The Family Telephone Connection Protection Act, calling for more competition, rate caps and an end to these insane and insidious "kickbacks" also known as "site commissions"—which is just a polite name for "Bribery".

For too many years we have allowed predatory companies like Securus to gauge these faceless and voiceless families who are already emotionally and financially devastated. It is unreasonable, unjust and unacceptable to pay \$17 for a 15 minute call or \$300 dollars a month to talk to a loved one.

Mr. Speaker, more than two million Americans are currently incarcerated in our nation's jails and prisons. Their chances for rehabilitation and a successful return to society are vastly improved if they can remain in communication with their families, children, and critical support services. Expensive phone call

rates deter such communication and result in recidivism and costly re-incarceration.

After a decade of no oversight, no regulation and no transparency the FCC has a chance tomorrow to finally right a wrong to a powerless segment of our society.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, DC, October 20, 2015.

Hon. TOM WHEELER,

Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WHEELER: More than two million Americans are currently incarcerated in our nation's jails and prisons. Their chances for rehabilitation and a successful return to society are vastly improved if they can remain in communication with their families, children, and critical support services. Expensive phone call rates deter such communication and result in recidivism and costly re-incarceration.

For the past decade we, the undersigned Members of Congress, have been imploring the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to provide a market-based solution to curb these high telephone rates (see the Family Telephone Connection Protection Act, first introduced in the 109th Congress). The Commission is poised on October 22, 2015, to approve a final order on comprehensive inmate calling services (ICS) and we firmly believe that such comprehensive reform is needed to rein in the predatory practices in the ICS marketplace. The lack of competition and the out of control site commissions paid to correctional facilities are partly the cause of these skyrocketing costs. Simply put, up to 60 percent of what prisoners' families pay to receive phone calls from their incarcerated loved ones has nothing to do with the cost of the phone services provided. These artificial rates account for hundreds of millions of dollars paid to state prison systems for exclusive contracts.

For several years, the Commission has correctly concluded that unconstrained site commission practices are the most significant contributing factor to high ICS rates. In its 2013 order, Reducing High Inmate Calling Rates, the Commission cited many examples demonstrating the correlation of site commission and high phone rates.

On September 15, 2015, the Commission outlined in a fact sheet that it "strongly discourages site commissions" but did not provide any assurance that it plans to eliminate or curb this predatory practice. It also outlined a rate cap of \$1.65 for intrastate, interstate, and international calls. Although establishing a rate cap is a step in the right direction, we believe it must be coupled with eliminating site commissions in order to yield the lowest possible phone rates. We, therefore, urge the Commission to use its statutory authority under Sections 201 and 276 to address site commissions when it undertakes comprehensive ICS reform.

We have all heard the stories and cries of our constituents who, at times, have had to pay up to \$17 for a 15 minute call just to stay in touch with their incarcerated loved ones. We know all too well that ongoing contact between the incarcerated and their families reduces the rate of recidivism in our society. Ending these predatory practices of price gouging at the expense of families is a human rights issue. As the Commission moves towards a vote on ICS, we urge you to exercise the fullest extent of your jurisdiction to protect and service more vulnerable consumers.

Sincerely,

BOBBY L. RUSH,

Member of Congress.

G. K. BUTTERFIELD,

Member of Congress.

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,

Member of Congress.
CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Member of Congress.
MARCIA L. FUDGE,
Member of Congress.

TRIBUTE TO DALE AND JANICE
WARD

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dale and Janice Ward of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They married in 1965.

Dale and Janice's lifelong commitment to each other and their children, Jill and Lisa, along with their grandchildren, truly embodies our Iowa values. I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

THE PASSING OF WORLD WAR II
VETERAN AND PEARL HARBOR
SURVIVOR EDWARD F. BORUCKI

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to speak about the passing of one of western Massachusetts' heroes, World War II veteran and survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack, Edward F. Borucki.

Edward was born in Holyoke, Massachusetts to Polish immigrants and worked as a machinist apprentice until he decided to enlist in the Navy in 1940. After going through training in Newport, Rhode Island, he was shipped to the Pacific and assigned to the light cruiser, the USS *Helena*. He moved through the ranks to Yeoman Third Class aboard the vessel and worked in the forward engine room. On the morning of December 7, 1941, Edward was running to his station when the first torpedo hit the forward engine room and knocked him into a bulkhead. He was only thirty seconds from being in the section that was destroyed. He helped seal the section of the ship off and help in anyway he could. After the attack was over, Edward helped carry his wounded and dead shipmates up out of the section and to the hospital.

After the USS *Helena* was transferred back to California for repairs, Edward was transferred to the USS *Rockaway* and then preceded to attend various training schools. In 1944, Edward married his late wife, Viola Mul of Southampton. A year later, he left the Navy with the rank of Chief Petty Officer. Edward was able to take advantage of the GI Bill to get a business degree at American International College in Springfield, MA and a Masters degree at Boston University. Starting in 1955, Edward taught at Chicopee High School and later Chicopee Comprehensive High School until he retired.

Edward never forgot about his experiences in the war and the need to show appreciation

to veterans. He was a fixture at a multitude of events honoring veterans around western Massachusetts. He worked for ten years as a veteran's agent in Southampton, helping veterans work through what services are available to them. In the early 2000s, Edward led an effort to get a bridge on Route 5 over the Manhan River dedicated to all those who lost their lives and the survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack. He commented during the campaign to express why the bridge should be named for the Pearl Harbor veterans, "War is hell. We who were in it never want to see another again." Lawmakers in Massachusetts gladly listened to his request and in 2005, the Pearl Harbor Veterans Memorial Bridge.

Mr. Speaker, Edward Borucki was a fine example of the men and women that put their lives on the line for our freedom against the threat of tyranny during the Second World War and who served their community selflessly afterward. I would like to extend my condolences to his family, including his seven sons, and let them know that the thoughts of a grateful nation are with them.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
MAJOR STEWART, U.S. AIR
FORCE, RETIRED

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Colonel Major Stewart, U.S. Air Force, Retired. It is my great honor to highlight the life of this humble American.

Lt. Col. Stewart enlisted in the Army Air Corp in August of 1941 and served throughout the duration of World War II. Millions of Americans answered the call and sacrificed when our Allies were in trouble; Lt. Col. Stewart was no exception. As a bomber pilot, he completed 70 missions while serving in the Pacific Fleet; 39 of these in the legendary B-25 Mitchell Bomber. Lt. Col. Stewart later transitioned to the B-24; it was in this aircraft that Colonel Stewart would lead a decisive mission to attack a key enemy oil refinery.

The strategic oil-refinery at Balikpapan, Borneo produced over thirty percent of Japan's wartime fuel supply and was heavily defended by enemy fighters and anti-aircraft weapons. On October 14, 1944, Lt. Col. Stewart led a formation of dangerously overloaded B-24 bombers on a daylight bombing run in what was one of the longest flights ever undertaken in the Southwest Pacific. Dedication to mission enabled him to stay the course and place bombs on target despite the damage his plane experienced on approach from enemy fire. For his heroism and extraordinary achievement, Lt. Col. Stewart was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, one of the highest honors the military bestows.

I know Lt. Col. Stewart wouldn't boast of his service during WWII, a trying time for our Nation, yet it is his type of heroic actions that led to the defeat of the Axis allies and the evil they spread. Lt. Col. Stewart's achievements didn't stop there. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Campaign Ribbon with four Bronze Stars for the New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago, Northern Solomon, and Mandated Islands Campaigns.

Upon return to reserve duty in November of 1945, Lt. Col. Stewart maintained airplanes at Tinker Air Force Base. Yearning to give greater service to his community, he attended school and became a math teacher. After retiring from both the U.S. Air Force Reserves and a teaching career in California, he made his way to Texas. Today Lt. Col. Stewart and his wife live in Cedar Park where he was recently presented a key to the City by Cedar Park Mayor and City Council at the WWII Veteran's Recognition Ceremony. We are honored to have such a humble hero in our midst.

These few meager words cannot fully express the gratitude I share for Lt. Col. Stewart and the brave service he has given. I join his family, friends, and loved ones in deep appreciation for his service to the Nation. May we all follow the example of bravery, heroism, and humility he displays everyday as part of the greatest generation that ever lived.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,152,669,947,434.69. We've added \$7,525,792,989,521.61 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

TRIBUTE TO CRAIG AND LINDA
WOLTMANN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Craig and Linda Woltmann of Walnut, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on September 12, 1965, at the First Presbyterian Church in Walnut.

Craig and Linda's lifelong commitment to each other, their daughter, Wendy, and their grandchildren, truly embodies our Iowa values. I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

HONORING DR. ROBERT R.
HOLMES

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Robert R. Holmes for his